

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SUMMARY OF LIVESTOCK STATISTICS, MARCH 1949.

Figures in parentheses refer to the previous year.

MORTALITY LOSSES, ETC. The reported losses from drought and all other causes were:- Sheep 538,149 (414,971). Cattle 20,176 (14,807) Horses 4,637 (3,755) and Pigs 3,756 (5,033).

SHEEP. 9,365,713 (9,055,237) an increase of 310,476 on the previous year and of 2,579,175 on the 6,786,538 for the drought year 1946, but still 1,004,852 less than the record pre-drought figure of 10,370,565 for 1943. The comparatively small increase for this last year was due to decreased lambing, decreased imports from other States, increased slaughterings and increased mortality. There were 4,769,037 (4,655,046) breeding and 550,664 (477,461) other ewes, 2,025,152 (1,719,178) wethers; 135,983 (129,761) rams and 1,884,877 (2,073,791) lambs.

BREEDS OF SHEEP. These particulars were not collected this year.

LAMBING 1948. 4,250,094 (4,090,231) ewes were mated and 2,967,327 (3,099,436) lambs were marked, giving a lambing percentage of 69.82 (75.78) The record number of lambs marked was 3,322,810 in 1943 and the record percentage was 78.68 in 1917.

LAMBING 1949. 4,601,727 ewes were reported to have been mated or intended to be mated for lambing during 1949 - 3,317,881 to merino, corriedale or polwarth rams and 1,283,846 to rams of other breeds. The number is 90,828 more than were so reported the previous year.

WOOL CLIP. 10,273,620 (9,328,822) sheep and lambs were reported to have been shorn, the total clip including crutchings etc. being 92,549,728 (88,651,119) lbs. The average fleece for sheep and lambs combined was 9.01 (9.50) lbs and for sheep only 10.58 (11.26) lbs. The total wool production would include approximately another 15,000,000 (15,024,816) lbs for wool fellmongered and on skins for export, making a total wool production of 107,500,000 (103,675,935) lbs. The record wool production was 115,464,000 lbs. in 1943-44. The wool production is valued at nearly £20,000,000 (£15,500,000) compared with a pre-war average of £4,000,000. The average price for greasy wool was 44.14d. (35.88d) compared with the pre-war average of approximately 12d. and the earlier extremes of 22.97d. in 1924-25 and 6.82d. in 1930-31.

CATTLE. All kinds 461,086 (445,287) increase 15,799 on the record total of the previous year and of 86,990 on the drought figure of 374,096 in 1946. Dairying cows 203,479 (196,739) were classified as follows - in milk 118,823 (112,726) dry 54,042 (54,228) and springing heifers 30,614 (29,785). Other cattle included other dairy heifers 23,907 (23,374), dairy calves 42,925 (46,414), dairy bulls 8,710 (8,604) beef cows and heifers 79,231 (82,891) beef calves 40,492 (37,342) beef bulls 2,801 (2,217) and other beef cattle 59,541 (47,706). Total dairying cattle 279,021 (275,131) beef cattle 182,065 (170,156),

DAIRY PRODUCTION. Provisional figures for the year ended June 1949 are as follows: Butter 20,800,000 (27,537,405) lbs., cheese 26,000,000 (25,827,102) lbs and Bacon and Ham 8,750,000 (10,940,709) lbs. The year's cheese production has been exceeded only once, butter was normal, but bacon and ham was less than in recent years. Grand total milk production was estimated to be 91,500,000 gallons compared with the record of 93,500,000 in 1946-47. During recent years the average milk production per cow in milk and dry has been approximately 550 gallons.

HORSES. 94,071 (100,619) of which foals were 3,240 (3,160) draught and other 32,905 (31,583). The number of horses is less than half of the number (200,870) in 1936 and is the lowest number since 1874. The maximum number was 269,255 in 1919.

PIGS. 71,427 (100,343) of which there were 1,894 (2,254) boars, 9,592 (11,677) breeding sows 23,528 (33,062) baconers and porkers, 1,062 (1,454) backfatters 7,784 (12,242) stores, and 27,567 (39,654) weaners, suckers and slips. The number of pigs is the lowest since 1938. The maximum number was 190,068 in 1940, and it was 186,007 only 5 years ago.

GOYDER'S LINE AND LIVESTOCK. Outside Goyder's Line there were 2,378,873 (2,564,096) sheep, 133,926 (125,125) cattle and 26,227 (26,542) horses, while inside there were 6,986,840 (6,491,141) sheep, 327,160 (320,162) cattle and 67,844 (74,077) horses. During the last 20 years there have been only slight variations in the percentages of livestock outside and inside the line. The percentages outside for 1949 were sheep 25.40, cattle 29.05, horses 27.88.

SLAUGHTERINGS, 1948 (1947) were: - Sheep 955,009 (742,175) Lambs 1,055,602 (923,180), Cattle 189,255 (147,577), pigs 150,161 (175,977). Prior to the War, the annual slaughterings were approximately - Sheep 900,000, Lambs 800,000, Cattle 160,000 and Pigs 155,000. For the first six months of 1949 (1948) they were: - Sheep 570,000 (410,000), Lambs 320,000 (245,000), Cattle 88,000 (78,000) and Pigs 60,000 (77,000).

LIVESTOCK AS AT MARCH 31ST 1949 IN COMPARISON WITH MARCH, 31ST, 1948.

| Division | Sheep | | Cattle | | Horses | Pigs |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
| | 1949 | 1948 | 1949 | 1948 | 1949 | 1949 |
| | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. |
| Central | 2,119,164 | 1,969,278 | 156,313 | 153,817 | 28,526 | 33,593 |
| Lower North | 1,500,529 | 1,458,171 | 34,079 | 33,516 | 13,443 | 17,245 |
| Upper North | 809,538 | 852,433 | 17,043 | 19,472 | 6,910 | 3,083 |
| South Eastern | 1,872,705 | 1,695,475 | 108,144 | 103,598 | 7,807 | 3,253 |
| Western | 1,489,223 | 1,499,522 | 14,832 | 16,549 | 15,983 | 5,157 |
| Murray Mallee | 874,859 | 775,516 | 28,042 | 27,676 | 12,224 | 9,096 |
| Total counties | 8,666,018 | 8,250,395 | 358,453 | 354,628 | 84,893 | 71,427 |
| Outside counties | 699,695 | 804,842 | 102,633 | 90,659 | 9,178 | - |
| Total State | 9,365,713 | 9,055,237 | 461,086 | 445,287 | 94,071 | 71,427 |
| Increase | 310,476 | 1,096,618 | 15,799 | 21,307 | -6,548 | -28,916 |

WOOL CLIP

| Division | Wool Clip | | | Average Weight Fleece | | |
|------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------------------|---------|----------|
| | 1948-49 | 1947-48 | Increase | 1948-49 | 1947-48 | Increase |
| | Lbs. | Lbs. | Lbs. | Lbs. | Lbs. | Lbs. |
| Central | 20,159,597 | 19,511,553 | 648,044 | 8.85 | 9.43 | -0.58 |
| Lower North | 15,425,296 | 15,003,381 | 421,915 | 9.49 | 10.30 | -0.81 |
| Upper North | 9,042,542 | 8,573,789 | 468,753 | 9.66 | 10.07 | -0.41 |
| South Eastern | 17,126,255 | 16,612,925 | 513,330 | 8.29 | 8.98 | -0.69 |
| Western | 14,156,568 | 13,654,332 | 502,236 | 8.45 | 8.69 | -0.24 |
| Murray Mallee | 8,273,185 | 7,193,389 | 1,079,796 | 9.38 | 9.45 | -0.07 |
| Total counties | 84,183,443 | 80,549,369 | 3,634,074 | 8.89 | 9.41 | -0.52 |
| Outside counties | 8,366,285 | 8,101,750 | 264,535 | 10.34 | 10.55 | -0.21 |
| Total State | 92,549,728 | 88,651,119 | 3,898,609 | 9.01 | 9.50 | -0.49 |

A. W. BOWDEN,

GOVERNMENT STATIST.

Statistical Office,
ADELAIDE.

30th August, 1949.